

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 4, 2005. Claims 8-9 and 12-15 are pending.

Claims 8, 12, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Hirano (US 5,484,326). This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 8, 12, 14 and 15 all require that *slicing is performed after polishing*. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this.

Hirano discloses an ingot process where cutting is performed after “grinding.” The Office Action bases the rejection on the incorrect allegation that the claimed polishing reads on Hirano’s “grinding.” This is not the case. Polishing is much different than grinding, and the claimed polishing does not read on the “grinding” of Hirano.

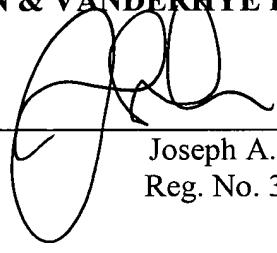
Those of skill in the art know that polishing involves smoothing and making *glossy*, or so as to have a *mirror-like* finish which is a type of being *glossy*. In contrast, “grinding” does not necessitate a *glossy* appearance, and is much different than “polishing” in this respect. Thus, those of skill in the art would readily recognize that the claimed polishing does not read on the “grinding” of Hirano. For this reason, Hirano fails to disclose or suggest that *slicing is performed after polishing* as required by claims 8, 12, 14 and 15.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

KAJIMOTO et al.
Appl. No. 10/716,661
November 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100